



October 12, 2005

Division of Dockets Management
5630 Fishers Lane
Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

RE: Food and Drug Administration, HHS Docket No. 2005N-0345

Dear Sir or Madam:

As the Title X grantee for this region, the Family Planning Council is a private, non-profit organization governed by a volunteer Board of Directors. Its mission is to ensure access to high quality, comprehensive, reproductive and related health and prevention services to low-income individuals throughout the five-county Philadelphia region. In keeping with our mission, we feel it is vitally important that the FDA move quickly to make emergency contraception (EC) available over-the-counter for women of all ages.

There is overwhelming support for making emergency contraception available without a prescription. Numerous studies and the nation's leading medical organizations have concluded that EC belongs over-the-counter and available to all women, regardless of age.

The Family Planning Council has conducted its own research on the advance provision of emergency contraception. We have found that easy access to emergency contraception does not appear to promote irresponsible sexual behaviors. Furthermore, according to our study, teenagers who use EC are no more likely to report unprotected sex, become pregnant or contract STDs than teenagers who do not use emergency contraception.

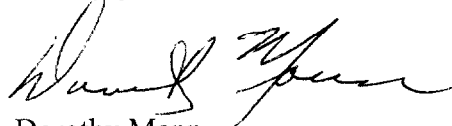
We agree with the members of the FDA's own advisory committee that there is no evidence that women who obtain EC in advance are more likely to engage in unprotected sex or use EC as a substitute for regular birth control methods. Moreover, limiting access to emergency contraception for adolescents is medically and scientifically unjustified.

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On behalf of the 140,000 patients served through our network of women's health care organizations, we strongly support making emergency contraception available over-the-counter without restrictions. We urge the FDA to work expeditiously to get this measure approved.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Dorothy Mann', written in black ink.

Dorothy Mann
Executive Director

Cc: U.S. Senator Arlen Specter
U.S. Congresswoman Allyson Schwartz
U.S. Congressman Chaka Fattah
U.S. Congressman Robert Brady
U.S. Congressman Jim Gerlach
Provider Agencies
Board of Directors